

Eugenics is the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities of a race; also with those that develop them to the utmost advantage.—SIR FRANCIS GALTON (1904)

The Eugenics Review

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NOTES OF THE QUARTER

THE SAMPLE CENSUS, 1966

AS ANNOUNCED ON December 16th, 1963, for the first time Britain is to have a five-yearly census: although power to hold such an enumeration has existed since 1920, this is the first time that this power has been exercised. The census will be wholly on a sample basis: this is a new and welcome development.

The Eugenics Society has been given an opportunity to comment upon the draft list of questions. It would appear, however, that while this intermediate enumeration will serve many useful purposes there is little or no prospect of obtaining from it any information that will throw light upon fertility. It is hoped that the *Society* will be able to play some part in designing the fresh approach towards fertility research that will be possible when the fuller decennial investigation is due in 1971.

DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY BY SOCIAL CLASS IN FRANCE

IN A RECENT nation-wide study of the educational achievement of French schoolchildren according to the "socio-professional" class of their parents,* Dr. Girard and Dr. Bastide

collected some interesting information on family size and fertility. This confirms the trend to a positive relationship between social class and fertility in the non-manual classes, which is apparent in the United States and Western Europe.†

In a cross-sectional survey, the more children there are in a family the more likely it is to be ascertained. To avoid this bias the fertility inquiry was limited to those in which the eleven to twelve-year-old child was the last born in the family.

The agricultural families are expectedly larger, averaging 3.4 for those of farm workers (3 per cent of the whole) and 2.9 for those of farmers (15 per cent). But in the non-farming groups, the highest fertility is at the two ends of the socio-economic scale: at the bottom, 2.7 for the families of manual workers (40 per cent) [Registrar-General's socio-economic groups 9, 10 and 11]‡ and 2.9 for a small group without occupation (3 per cent); at the top, 2.6 for those of the major professions (3 per cent) [socio-economic groups 3 and 4] and 2.7 for those of the big employer and administrative group (5 per cent) [socio-economic group 1]. The families of the intermediate groups averaged in roughly descending order of socio-economic status, 2.2 for the executive class (4 per cent) [socio-economic group 5], 2.4 for artisans and shop-keepers (10 per cent) [socio-economic group 2], and 2.4 for clerical (17 per cent) [socio-economic group 6].

Girard and Bastide found, as in similar studies in Britain, that membership of a large family was associated with a lower academic achieve-

* *Population*. 1963. 18, 435.

† Carter, C. O., 1962. *Eugenics Quarterly*, 9, 3, 147.

‡ General Register Office. 1960. *Classification of Occupations*.

ment; an artisan's or shop-keeper's child from a family with four or more children was no more likely to enter selective schools at age eleven than a child of a manual worker with only one or two children in the family. However, this effect of family size was not seen in the two highest socio-economic groups, the big employer and administrative group, and the professional group.

It should not be assumed that the association of large family size and poor educational achievement is purely environmental, but the educational advantages to a country of having its largest families concentrated in the higher socio-economic groups were again apparent.

CONTRACEPTIVES: WHICH?

THE EUGENICS SOCIETY must welcome the survey *Contraceptives** issued by the Consumers' Association as a supplement to *Which?* The document is remarkable for its comprehensiveness and as a proof of the growing maturity of our population. The survey is illustrated by photographs and detailed tables referring to the many different makes, qualities and prices of the various contraceptives now on the market.

The most disquieting features of the survey are the demonstrable inadequacies of the items tested, in particular the high failure rate of condoms (of which some 100 million are sold in the United Kingdom each year) and the ineffectiveness of some of the chemical spermicides. Admittedly the condoms were shown to be weak in relation to very severe physical tests, but none of them passed the British Standard leakage test, although those made for export conform to the higher standards demanded overseas, particularly in the U.S.A. It is understood that the B.S.I. standard is about to be introduced, and it is to be hoped that manufacturers will decide to achieve it. Since the London Rubber Company is the major manufacturing concern in this market, their social conscience, which led them to set up the London Foundation for Marriage, should cause them to take the lead in making much needed improvements in their products.

As to chemical contraceptives, the Consumers' Association report advocates their inclusion within the definition of medicines, when they would become subject to the same regulations. The Family Planning Association has only so far tested those which have been sent to them by manufacturers, and has never attempted to cover the whole market. The Report shows that although there are only twenty-eight chemical contraceptives on the F.P.A. Approved List, there are 108 to be found in this country. As might be expected, those which have been approved by the F.P.A. on the whole came out very well in these tests, while very few indeed of the remaining 108 measured up to the testing procedures; few of them gave any indication of the contents and composition of the product, and few of them passed the tests for spermicidal efficiency, whereas of course, only those which had been tested by the F.P.A. or the I.P.P.F. could be shown to be clinically harmless.

The appearance of this *Which?* supplement a month after the publication of the Lafitte Report† underlines the present interest in family planning and the means to that end. In this connection it is interesting to recall that thirty years ago Dr. John R. Baker in a paper on Laboratory Research in Chemical Contraception‡ stated that his work, which had then been going on for seven years, had been undertaken at the suggestion of Dr. C. P. Blacker and was under the auspices of the Birth Control Investigation Committee. This Committee was supported by the Eugenics Society, and Dr. Baker's research was thus one of the earlier projects subsidized by the *Society*. Dr. Baker concluded his paper with the hope that one day there would be some form of Laboratory of Practical Eugenics where all commercial products could be tested for spermicidal properties and for harmlessness. Though his hope has not yet been entirely fulfilled, the Baker test has been used by the Family Planning Association to assess the spermicidal efficiency of chemical contraceptives until the present day. It has only just been replaced—January 1964—by an internationally agreed test arrived at in consultation with other laboratories in other countries after years of comparative testing. The Consumer's Association has, with its report on contraceptives,

* London, 1963, Pp. 96. Price 10s.

† See THE EUGENICS REVIEW, January 1964, 55, 192-4.

‡ *Ibid*, 1935. 27, 127-31.

exposed to a wider public the need for the maintenance of a high standard of quality by the manufacturers of these products.

DILEMMA WITH US NOW

MR. NEHRU WAS quoted in *The Times* (11.12.63) as saying:

that India's economic progress had already been hampered by growth of population. Unless the family planning programme made rapid progress—and hitherto it had had no remarkable success—India could never reach the standards of living at which it aimed . . . India's rate of increase of population is now estimated to be 2·4 per cent a year, higher than the most pessimistic estimates at the time of drawing up the third five year plan.

Time most certainly is not waiting for India to catch up with the population surge resulting from decreased mortality. The pressure of events casts shadows which can already be detected. The observer describes the diverse shadows both probable and possible, which he perceives, in distinction from the prophet who plumps for one of them as being the definitive pattern of the future. As observers, then, we may expect to see further efforts to expand "traditional" family planning, for demographic reasons rather than for that access of personal freedom which has been the initial motive in the West.

Being unconvinced that the rate of progress, in terms of decreased birth rate, will be sufficient to match the need, we are forced towards consciousness of what novel supplementary efforts may soon be made. The present gradual progress of male sterilization may be firmly enhanced by further fiscal pressures, which could be either positive or negative. The present sterilization bonus of a few rupees in several States might become nation-wide and considerably more attractive. Or the fiscal pressure might be reversed—tax increase unless . . .

Abortion might be legalized and facilities provided following the Japanese pattern of a decade and more ago. That might well be a useful supplement, or indeed become a major factor.

Widespread availability of free contraceptives of all kinds, mechanical, chemical and biological, might become governmental policy of not enor-

mous expense in relation to the problem as a whole. Their use might be "encouraged" by differential taxation, with increases with each successive child rather than allowances. The known imperfections of all contraceptives would not be significant: better something than nothing.

Such pressures may seem distasteful, indeed tyrannical, but India is already uncomfortably on the horns of the dilemma. India can never reach the standards of living at which it aims unless population growth is swiftly checked and brought under control. The fundamental philosophical dilemma is this: Is it right or acceptable for a government deliberately and powerfully to limit the freedom of individuals to the end that material standards of living may rise? That is the primary question for the world's people. There is in many ways an inevitable inverse correlation between population pressure and personal freedom, indeed between quantity of life and quality of life. Eugenic idealism reaches out one stage further still, to stress the desirability of looking to the quality of the individuals who shall partake of an enhanced quality of life and still possessing freedom.

HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

OUR ATTENTION HAS been drawn by a Press cutting to the existence of a new organization known as the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. Its purpose is to establish an Index of parish registers before 1837, in which the births, marriages and deaths recorded in those registers will be listed. For the period after 1837, a similar Index is available in the General Register Office and is open to public inspection.

The Institute is situated in Canterbury and enjoys the patronage of the Archbishop. Its Director, Mr. Cecil Humphery-Smith, estimates that there are 250 million names to be listed from the church records of 12,000 parishes. If one hundred helpers can be kept permanently at work, the task of indexing can be completed in about twenty years. As might be expected, money is the limiting factor, and the pace of progress will necessarily depend upon the amounts subscribed.

When the Index is complete, it is said, it

should take only minutes to trace a family tree, whereas such a task occupies much longer at present, when years of research may be required in some cases.

An indication of the benefits to the study of demographic history that may be derived from the careful analysis of parish registers is given on page 52 of the present issue of the REVIEW. If particulars are collected of the sex, age and occupation of related persons over long periods, and made available in an Index, such an index would also be of considerable help in those studies in medical genetics which involve the tracing back of lines of ancestry. The excellent use made by medical geneticists of the Swedish parish registers and the cantonal registers in Switzerland have shown what can be done.

The Society wishes the Institute every success in its efforts, and it may be that some form of useful collaboration between the two bodies can be established in due course.

TAGE KEMP, 1896-1964

TAGE KEMP WAS one of the pioneers of human and medical genetics, and built up at Copenhagen an Institute which is one of the leading centres for research and teaching. He was born in North Jutland and studied medicine at the University of Copenhagen. In 1923, not long after qualification, he joined the staff of Professor Oluf Thomsen, Director of the Institute of General Pathology. This was fortunate, for Thomsen was a man of great eminence and an inspiring leader. Kemp's early interests lay in endocrinology, and he was co-author of a textbook which appeared in 1933. At an early stage, however, he developed an increasing interest in human genetics and was marked out to become the first director of a new institute. The University Institute for Human Genetics finally came into existence in 1938, with a new building of its own. In 1948 he became Professor of Human Genetics and Eugenics in the University of Copenhagen.

It is a tribute to Kemp's qualities as a scientist and as a man that no difficulty ever arose, as could so easily have happened, owing to under-

standable prejudices aroused by the Nazi doctrines of "race hygiene." The Institute received the wholehearted encouragement of doctors throughout Denmark and of numerous government and other bodies. Kemp was readily given access to records of the most confidential kind. The simple fact was that he was a man of complete integrity, whom everyone liked and everyone trusted.

One of the most notable contributions of the Institute has been the long series of the *Opera ex Domo Biologiae Hereditariae Humanae Universitatis Hafniensis*, of which more than fifty have now appeared. These monographs are of an extremely high standard, and it is clear that Kemp gave his colleagues and assistants far more than the conventional help of an editor and head of a department.

Another activity for which he will be remembered was the organization of the First International Conference of Human Genetics, which took place at Copenhagen under his Presidency in 1956. Thanks to the careful preparations of Kemp and his staff, and the admirable arrangements which were made, the Conference was a great success. It had long been a dream of his that there should be international conferences on human genetics at five-year intervals, and this dream has been achieved, for the second was held at Rome in 1961, and plans are now under way for the third.

In his own researches Kemp ranged widely. He made early contributions of importance in serology and in chromosome and tissue culture studies. Another special interest was heredity in relation to cancer. But his reputation transcends his own personal publications for, in addition to these, and they were many, he will always be remembered for the Institute he founded and for the school to which he gave inspiration.

He delivered the Galton Lecture in 1957, his subject being: "Genetic-Hygienic Experiences in Denmark in Recent Years."* This lecture was very well attended and aroused great interest.

He is survived by his wife and five children.

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* See THE EUGENICS REVIEW, 1957. 49, 11-18.

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PROFESSOR LAL is Honorary Convenor of the Fertility and Mortality Reference Bureau in Delhi. This is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization which gathers, co-ordinates, interprets and publishes data on human fertility and mortality. He has published a number of papers on various aspects of demography in many of the Indian medical journals.

J. A. H. Waterhouse, M.A., Ph.D.

DR. WATERHOUSE WAS educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and obtained his Ph.D. in Human Genetics at Birmingham University. He was appointed Lecturer in Human Genetics at that University in 1947 and was made Reader in Medical Statistics in 1953. He has made special studies of blood group incompatibilities, twinning, puberty, oral contraceptive trials, and the demography of cancer, in addition to a

variety of joint studies in the field of medical statistics.

Miss Diana Brabban, B.Soc.Sc.

MISS BRABBAN GRADUATED in 1960 from the University of Birmingham. She has interviewed for The Social Survey, and was for a time in the service of Pan American World Airways, when she made good use of the opportunities thus provided to obtain first-hand sociological information in India, Pakistan and the West Indies; this has been invaluable in the present Inquiry into the fertility of immigrants.

Since March 1963 she has been a Research Assistant with the West Midlands Social and Political Research Unit.

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DR. GLANVILLE WILLIAMS is a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge and has been University Reader in English Law since 1957. He was formerly Professor of Public Law at the London School of Economics and Quain Professor of Jurisprudence at University College, London. His book, *The Sanctity of Life and the Criminal Law*, was based on the Carpentier Lectures delivered by him at Columbia University, New York. It was reviewed in THE EUGENICS REVIEW for July 1958 (50, 138).